Where is the DOG? Part II

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Comité pour la Sécurité Canine versus Citoyen Winter and the status of Citoyenne Smidge

Author's note: [Louis Antoine de Saint-Just](#) is here because it's more comfortable for me to latch onto a role for this, and Saint-Just brings the necessary energy. This is also not the first time I have deployed Saint-Just. Or, more correctly, [my Saint-Just sock puppet](#). He hates

being called cute. Any resemblance to actual Dead Frenchmen is entirely intentional.

For the first two essays in this series:

Presents:

Où est Smidge?

(Where is Smidge?)

CITOYENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LETTERS!

The **Comité pour la Sécurité Canine** is in session.

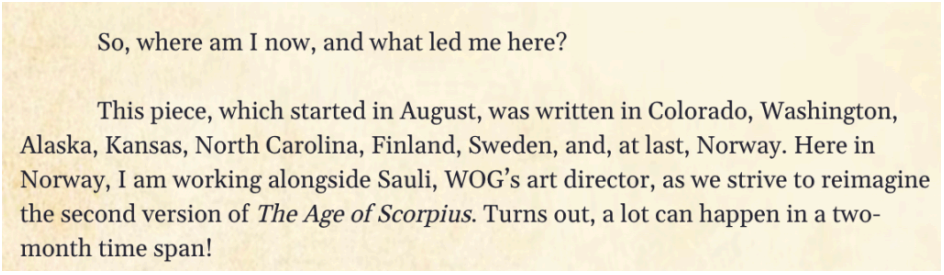
A question was asked. An answer was provided. The answer is insufficient.

This **Comité pour la Sécurité Canine** will not address or question Citoyen Winter's agoraphobia or disabilities. That is beyond the scope of this inquest and the introduction of such a question is both inappropriate and demeaning. An address would distract from the issue brought onto the floor:

Where is Citoyenne Smidge?

If I may remind the body polity, Citoyen Winter departed from the United States on or around 24 September 2025, with the stated intention of traveling to Finland. His stated intent to depart has been corroborated by multiple sources. Citoyen Winter placed an advertisement on his university's mur d'affiches for someone to take over his apartment lease, furniture included gratis.

Per his own words from Citoyen Winter's essay, he is now in Norway. From *High Disturbance*:



So, where am I now, and what led me here?

This piece, which started in August, was written in Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Kansas, North Carolina, Finland, Sweden, and, at last, Norway. Here in Norway, I am working alongside Sauli, WOG's art director, as we strive to reimagine the second version of *The Age of Scorpius*. Turns out, a lot can happen in a two-month time span!

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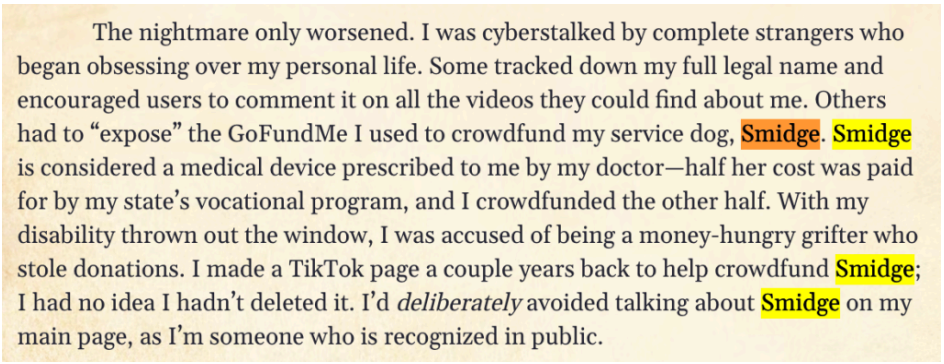
If I may refresh the body polity's memory, Citoyenne Smidge was placed with Citoyen Winter several years ago, when Citoyen Winter began a crowdfunding effort to pay for a service dog, which Citoyen Winter described as medically necessary. Half of the dog's fees were covered by the state Citoyen Winter resided in at the time — Colorado — and the rest to be paid for as an out of pocket expense. Citoyen Winter solicited the People via the Internet to help successfully pay the remaining balance, and Winter displayed photographs of himself posing with Citoyenne Smidge to the public squares of Instagram and TikTok.

The Republic has invested money into this animal, citoyens. The Republic deemed Citoyen Winter as meeting the necessary medical qualifications to be

entrusted with Citoyenne Smidge's care. The physicians of the Republic evaluated Citoyen Winter's medical needs in a formal examination and deemed him eligible. But where is Citoyenne Smidge?

You ask for proof, citoyens of the Republic? Here in Citoyen Winter's own words via his essay, *High Disturbance*:



The nightmare only worsened. I was cyberstalked by complete strangers who began obsessing over my personal life. Some tracked down my full legal name and encouraged users to comment it on all the videos they could find about me. Others had to "expose" the GoFundMe I used to crowdfund my service dog, Smidge. Smidge is considered a medical device prescribed to me by my doctor—half her cost was paid for by my state's vocational program, and I crowdfunded the other half. With my disability thrown out the window, I was accused of being a money-hungry grifter who stole donations. I made a TikTok page a couple years back to help crowdfund Smidge; I had no idea I hadn't deleted it. I'd *deliberately* avoided talking about Smidge on my main page, as I'm someone who is recognized in public.

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The **Comité pour la Sécurité Canine** will not address or speculate on why Citoyen Winter made the deliberate choice to not speak of Citoyenne Smidge in the time period leading up to his departure from the United States.

Citoyen Winter, however, as seen in the previous excerpt placed before the committee, has asserted he has departed the country of his birth. Mirroring his own words, he has traveled from Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Kansas, North Carolina, Finland, Sweden and, in some unknown order, Norway.

If I may present to the People a third piece of evidence, rendered in Citoyen Winter's own hand:

As soon as we mentioned on Patreon that I was relocating to Finland, someone tracked down my Facebook Marketplace listing, with my legal name, and shared my apartment online. Beyond the veil of many internet conspiracies concerning my disappearance, I simply crashed out and decided I needed to set my life on fire. I moved out of my apartment in Colorado, dropped my stuff in Kansas, and flew to Helsinki. Sauli welcomed me to Finland with the goal of kicking ass for Gardian. As we rework *The Age of Scorpius*, we are working closely together to weave a story unified with prose and illustration. We'll have more to announce soon.

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> prose and illustration. We'll have more to announce soon.

Note that Citoyenne Smidge is not accounted for in Citoyen Winter's recounting of his flight from the United States.

Citoyenne Smidge is not human, and has no voice of her own regarding her own fate. Citoyenne Smidge is dependent upon the grace of her assigned handler, Citoyen Winter. What is Citoyen Smidge in the eyes of the laws of the republic, then?

I submit to the commitee Colorado Revised Statute, Section § 24-34-803 and the Issue Brief created by the Colorado Legistlative Assembly. The Colorado statutes are compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), ADA regulations define a "service animal" as any dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

Citoyenne Smidge is a medically necessary support tool in the eyes of the state, trained to improve Citoyen Winter's quality of life. This medically necessary support tool cannot be prescribed to be taken "as needed" as if she were generic pain medication. A service animal is not a comfort toy, or an optional accessory. A service animal, in the eyes of the law and the practice of medicine, is the same as a wheelchair or an insulin pump and can no more be casually discarded. They are necessary for daily functioning.

Neither statute addresses the transportation — internationally — of that medically necessary support tool who wears the skin of a humble dog.

The Colorado statutes end at that state's borders. The ADA ends at America's borders. What, then, is Citoyenne Smidge subject to if transported to Helsinki?

Citoyenne Smidge and by extension, Citoyen Winter, must now comply with Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 and the national laws of the country of Finland. Citoyenne Smidge must have health papers, a microchip, a necessary bureaucratic paper trail. She must be pre-approved on the departing flight from the United States by an airline carrier, who will not accept her without her proper papers. **The laws of the European Union and Finland applies to animals declared as pets, and animals declared as medically necessary.**

- Declared movement with advance notice
- Airline-specific disability/service documentation
- ISO microchip (pre-rabies)
- Rabies vaccination documentation
- Rabies antibody titre test
- must be done at an EU-approved laboratory
- requires *30 days after vaccination + 3 months wait* before entry
- EU veterinary certificate issued within 10 days of travel
- Entry only through designated border inspection points

This, citoyens of the Republic, is not a procedure that may be carried out under the cover of darkness, not within a fortnight, and not within the bounds of what Citoyen Winter describes as a decision made on impulse.

To transport Citoyenne Smidge to Finland would have required Citoyen Winter begin his plans to flee four or

more months in advance and in secret. A premeditation. And the contrivance of his “crash out” as a narrative dramaturgy for the People.

However, the committee and the People shall allow the mercy of lenience, and accept the “crash out” narrative as Citoyen Winter has presented, and there was no premeditated plan to flee.

Unlike the laws of man, the laws of time are immutable. In this case, the laws of man dictate thirty days must pass after a rabies antibody test is conducted. Ninety days more — *three months* — must pass for the animal to be granted entry into Finland. These are enforced at the border of Finland, and animals who do not fill those requirements — even those deemed medically necessary for the quality of life — will be turned away.

One hundred and twenty days, citoyens of the Republic. **Four months.**

Finnish laws and border men do not bend to emotional appeals. They cannot be charmed nor bartered with. **Citoyenne Smidge, by Citoyen Winter’s own timeline and “crash out,” cannot have entered Finland legally on short notice.**

I ask again, where is Citoyenne Smidge?

- Citoyenne Smidge cannot be in Finland, for if Citoyen Winter made the trip impulsively, there would have been no time to prepare his dog for transport.
- If Citoyenne Smidge is not in Finland but Citoyen Winter is, then Citoyen Winter abandoned his charge to parties unknown. Citoyenne Smidge is medically necessary, but in this scenario Citoyen Winter does not

consider his service animal to be medically necessary *enough*. This goes against medical advice.
- If Citoyenne Smidge is still with Citoyen Winter, then the latter cannot be in Finland and his location is not as he has stated it to be.
- If Citoyenne Smidge is with Citoyen Winter in Finland, then this flight from the United States was premeditated. The committee will make of that what it will.
- Citoyenne Smidge is a confabulation and does not exist. The raising of funds via the Internet for fraudulent purposes is called "wire fraud" in the jurisdiction of the United States and is considered a federal crime. This hypothetical is outside the cope of the committee's inquiry but, nevertheless, is raised if only to be discarded at this time.

All of these things cannot be true. None of these outcomes may co-exist with one another. *Either Citoyenne Smidge is in Finland or is not in Finland.* And by Citoyen Winter's own account, there was no time allotted to prepare for the dog's transport across the ocean to another nation.

Let us examine this further.

If the dog is with Citoyen Winter, and neither are in Finland, then this is a falsehood foisted upon the People and the Republic. It is, perhaps, understandable. Citoyen Winter repeated has stated he has been cyberstalked and harassed to the point where an innocent transfer of the lease upon his apartment resulted in personal photographs of his domicile were disseminated in the public square of the Internet by parties that may have had malicious intent. Doxing is a highly unethical practice, and our sympathies are with the victim. Citoyen Winter is then justifiably wary of revealing his true location. However, one should be clear to say they do not

wish to disclose their present abode, rather than laying a false trail to mislead both the innocent and those who may wish him harm.

There is a difference — a subtle one — between deliberate omission and deliberate deceit.

If Citoyen Winter left Citoyenne Smidge in the care of a party unknown to the People or the committee, this constitutes abandonment and animal cruelty as defined by the laws of the state of Colorado. Is cruelty in the eyes of the state, and an abandonment of one's moral duty to a sentient creature who is both voiceless and innocent. If abandoned, Citoyenne Smidge cannot protest her situation, as she does not possess the words or the understanding to process the abrupt severance of her bond with Citoyen Winter.

Colorado Revised Statute 18-9-202, Section 1-b: "Any person who intentionally abandons a dog or cat commits the offense of cruelty to animals."

Furthermore, if I may remind the body polity once more, Citoyenne Smidge is more than a mere dog. She has been deemed by the state to be as necessary to life as a artificial limb or a wheelchair. An abandonment of Citoyen Smidge to parties unknown is a betrayal of the trust of the state and the People, and tantamount to sawing off one's own leg or plucking out one's own eye.

Citoyen Winter, written in his own hand in *High Disturbance*, does not provide any indication he will return to the nation of his birth. That is fraught with its own legal perils with Finnish law, but that is not within the

scope of this inquest. **The Comité pour la Sécurité Canine is concerned with the status of Citoyenne Smidge.**

And, if I may bring forth Citoyen Winter's own words once more:

> This piece, which started in August, was written in Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Kansas, North Carolina, Finland, Sweden, and, at last, Norway. Here in Norway, I am working alongside Sauli, WOG's art director, as we strive to reimagine the second version of *The Age of Scorpius*. Turns out, a lot can happen in a two-month time span!

Citoyen Winter claims to be in **Norway**.

While both Norway and Finland are part of the Schengen Area, the privilege of free borders between nations only applies to *human* members of those 29 countries who make up the Schengen. Non-citizens may travel freely between Schengen nations for a 90-day tourist visa. They may not over stay past that point. However, transporting a dog — even one that is medically necessary — between Finland and Norway is not so nearly as simple.

Veterinary clearance in Finland does not guarantee clearance to Norway. It is not transferable. A separate set of tests must be conducted before an animal can cross the border. Another ninety days, plus one to five additional days for a tapeworm test to be conducted prior to crossing into Norway.

Citoyenne Smidge cannot have entered Finland in the narrow corridor of time that Citoyen Winter claims, and Citoyenne Smidge cannot have crossed from Finland into

Norway without forcing Citoyen Winter to overstay his tourist visa.

Where is Citoyenne Smidge?

The Comité pour la Sécurité Canine was convened over the concern for the welfare and disposition of this sentient being who was entrusted into Citoyen Winter's care. This committee now rests, and submits the evidence, the timeline, and the law to the judgement of the People and the Republic of Letters.

— Louis-Antoine de Saint-Just, 9 Frimaire, An CCXXXIV

Next: Milo Winter's 2025 Federal Income Taxes are Non-Euclidean Nightmare Fuel

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